

# Beach Closes April 1<sup>st</sup>!

## Why is the beach closed?

As a national wildlife refuge, our first priority is wildlife. The piping plover is recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species. This means it is at risk of becoming endangered. Because this rare bird nests on the beaches of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, we annually close our beaches to the public to ensure the nests remain undisturbed by humans, giving them a greater chance of survival.

## How do I know where I may and may not go?

The beach will be closed from just south of the first parking lot (#1) all the way to Sandy Point State Reservation. It is clearly marked with signs and a fence made of ropes and buoys. Sometimes the fencing gets washed away, but it is your responsibility to read and obey all signs when visiting the refuge. You may not go beyond these signs for any reason at any time of day even if you get there from the water. If you are unsure if you should be somewhere, you can ask any refuge staff person. However, until you have been advised otherwise, avoid that area.

## When will the beach re-open?

The entire beach usually re-opens sometime in August, but this will be determined based upon the presence of any plovers. We will open the beach when doing so no longer endangers the piping plovers. Generally we will open some of the beach when we have determined that there are no nests or plovers present in the area.

## Who are the Plover Wardens?

Plover Wardens are volunteers dedicated to helping us ensure the boundaries and closed areas on the beach are monitored and respected. They are also there to help educate the public about the piping plover. Please feel free to ask a Plover Warden a question, they are there to help.

## How Can I Help?

The most important thing you can do is respect the beach closure boundaries that we have set up. You may also volunteer to be a Plover Warden. To learn more about this, visit or call our visitor center at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA. 978-465-5753.

## Wait! I Have More Questions, who can I call?

Please call us here at 978-465-5753.  
We will do our very best to help you.